XIV. *Explanation of a Runic Inscription upon a Jasper Ring: By* WILLIAM HAMPER, *Esq. F. S. A. In a Letter addressed to* FRANCIS DOUCE, *Esq. F. S. A.*

Read 13th May, 1824.

Deritend House, Birmingham, Nov. 18, 1823.

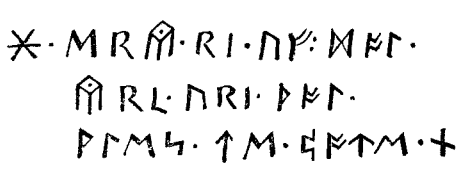
MY DEAR SIR,

THE Runic Inscription on Mr. Cumberland's Jasper Ring, which you have submitted to my consideration, is less difficult in its characters and construction than either that on Lord Aberdeen's Ring, or on any other relique of the same class which you and I have hitherto had the pleasure of discussing.

It appears to be *a Dano-Saxon Amulet against the Plague;* and the writer of the Spell has chosen the same alphabet of Runes which we find engraved in Tabula II. of Hickes's Thesaurus, from the Cottonian Manuscript Domitian, A. IX. fo. 10.

I will only further observe, that there is a devotional earnestness in the triplet (for such it is), which marks a better taste and feeling than are usually to be met with in Cabalistic Rhymes; and shall now subjoin a copy of the Inscription, accompanied with a version in Anglo-Saxon, Latin, and the corresponding dialect of our Mother Tongue.

If you think right to exhibit the Ring to the Society of Antiquaries, you are quite at liberty to send this interpretation with it.



ERYRI . VF . MOL .

YRI . VRI . WOL.

WLES . TE . POTE . NOL.

Æþæþa oþ molðan;	Eleva nos e pulvere;
Aþa uþe þolan,	Remitte nostram pestem,
hþileþ ðe þyttte nolð.	Puteo nolente.

Raise us from dust we pray to thee ;
From Pestilence, O ! set us free,
Although the Grave unwilling be.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your obliged and faithful friend,

WILLIAM HAMPER.

FRANCIS DOUCE, Esq. F. S. A.
&c. &c. &c.